



Children and Family Ministries  
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# ILLUMINATE

REVEALING THE GREATEST HOPE

2017 Advent Activity  
Devotional for Kids









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Luke 2: 1-21

*Isaiah 9:6*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Do you know what your name means? Often parents choose a name for their child for a particular reason. They might like the way a name sounds or they might be naming a child after someone special. Sometimes parents choose a name because of the meaning the name has. If you don't already know, ask your parents about how they chose the name they gave you and the meaning of your name. Does your name tell something about who you are?

In our Scripture verse today we read words the prophet Isaiah spoke about Jesus. And this was many years before Jesus was born! In this verse we read 4 names that are given: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

What do you think those names mean?

What do they tell us about who Jesus is?

Our theme this week is Hope. The birth of Jesus was something that God's people were waiting and hoping for a

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Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

“May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!

And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!”

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

When the child was eight days old, he was circumcised. At the same time he was named Jesus. This was the name the angel had given him before his mother became pregnant.

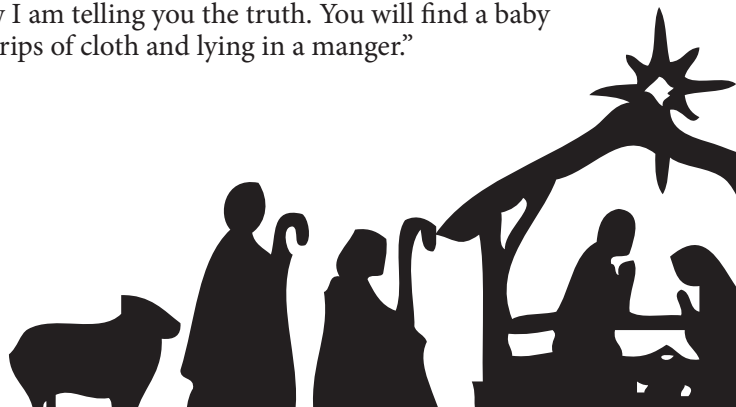


# J E S U S I P P E

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."



very long time. Advent is a time that we remember the hope that we find in Jesus.

What are some things you are hoping for this Christmas?

How can you share the hope of Jesus this Christmas?

## 🔍 DIGGING DEEPER...

Discover some more names of Jesus. Look up the Bible passages below and find the name given to Jesus. What does it tell us about Jesus?

John 1:1  
John 8:12  
John 10:11  
John 4:25  
John 6:35

🙏 **PRAYER:** Spend a couple minutes thanking God for giving us Jesus and praising Him for who He is using one or more of the names given to Jesus.

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## Colouring Page



## Hopeful Gifts for Change

It is so fun to receive gifts! Something that many people like about Christmas is receiving and giving gifts. Do you like to give gifts? How do you choose the gifts you give?

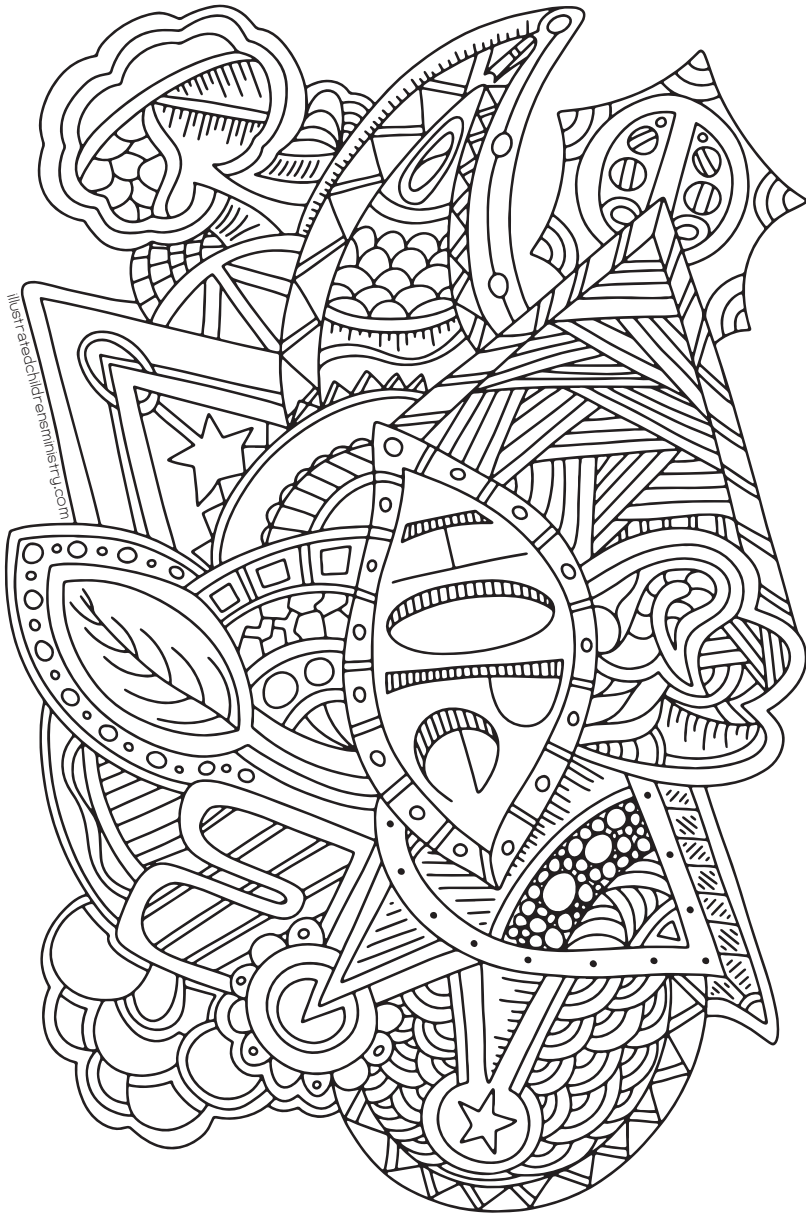
Did you know that you could choose to give meaningful gifts that can make a difference in the lives of people around the world? The Hopeful Gifts for Change catalogue has many different ideas of gifts that you could give that make a difference somewhere else in the world. You could give school supplies for kids who don't have any or fresh fruits and vegetables. Ask your parent to help you look at the website Hopeful Gifts for Change and learn about these and other gift ideas.

<https://hopefulgifts.ca/>



Prayer is another gift that we can give to others. Spend some time praying for the people that receive these Hopeful gifts for Change. You might choose to learn a little about the town or country they live in.

# HOPE - Colouring Page



# Pursuing Peace

Read the following scenarios and decide what you would do. Are there Bible verses you can find that would help you in these situations?

## SCENARIO #1

You are waiting in line to go up the ladder and go down the slide on the playground. Another kid runs over and cuts in front of you in line. You push them out of your way before climbing the ladder. After all, it was your spot in line wasn't it? What do you do?

## SCENARIO #2

There is a child in your neighborhood who often calls you names. You do not know why they call you these names, but you do know that it hurts your feelings. You think maybe this other child could be jealous of you. What do you do?

## SCENARIO #3

Alicia's Dad just lost his job. He has been so upset. At night, she can hear her Mom and Dad whispering. They sound worried. Now she is worried too. What should Alicia do?

## SCENARIO #4

Jamie and Natalie are brother and sister. Lately, they have been fighting a lot. They yell at each other and take things and tattletale to their Mom and Dad. There is no peace in their home. They even have to share the same room! What should they do?

## SCENARIO #5

Gretchen just came to church for the first time – one of her friends invited her! She had heard of Jesus, but didn't really know that He was God. She was excited to hear that He could bring peace to her heart, because she had a lot of problems in her home. What should she do now?







*John 13:34-35*

*A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you love one another.*

How do you know that your parents love you? How do your parents know that you love them? Do you hear or say the words, 'I love you' or other words that express love? Are there ways to express love that do not use words? What are they?

In our Scripture verses today we read words spoken by Jesus to his disciples. A disciple is a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells them to love one another. This is so important that Jesus calls it a command, which means it is something his followers must do. And loving one another is the way that other people will know that they are his disciples!

Are you a follower of Jesus? What are the ways people would be able to know that?

How do you show love to other people?

What if there is a person that is mean or that you do not really like very much? Should you show love to that person? Explain your answer.

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Our theme this week is Peace. Jesus came to bring peace to the world and to our hearts. Advent is a time when we can be reminded that we can trust Jesus to give us His peace. We don't have to live with fear or worry or anxiety alone.

How does Jesus bring you peace?

How could you share the peace of Jesus this Christmas?

🔍 **DIGGING DEEPER...**

Read Matthew 5:9. These are words that Jesus spoke.

Who does He say is blessed?

What does it mean to be a peacemaker?

🙏 **PRAYER:** Spend a few minutes thanking Jesus that He brings peace. Tell him the things that worry you or make you afraid or anxious. Ask Him to help you trust in his peace.

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# PEACE

*John 14:27*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Does anything ever worry you or make you feel anxious or afraid? Do you ever listen to or watch the news and hear about bad things happening around your home and country and in other parts of the world? How does that make you feel? There are many things happening around us that are not very peaceful.

Do you remember the Bible verse from the very first week? One of the names given to Jesus that we read in the verse is "Prince of Peace". Do you think Christmas is a time of peace? Explain your thoughts.

The things happening around us and in our world might make us afraid with all of its problems. But Jesus came to give us his peace through the Holy Spirit so that we don't have to fear. We are never alone when we trust Jesus. And when we do have problems, Jesus is with us to help us through.

How might Jesus help us through our problems?

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Our theme this week is Love. God loves us so much that He gave us His one and only Son Jesus. Jesus shows us what real love is and how we can love others in words and actions. Advent is a time that we can express the love we receive from God to others.

Who are some people in your life that you want to know Jesus' love?

How can you share the love of Jesus this Christmas?

## 🔍 DIGGING DEEPER...

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 are Bible verses that describe what love is. List all the descriptions you find in the verses. What are examples of ways you can show each description of love to other people?

🙏 **PRAYER:** Spend a couple minutes thanking God for loving you. Ask Him to help you discover ways to show His love to other people.

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## JOY - Colouring Page



## LOVE Acrostic

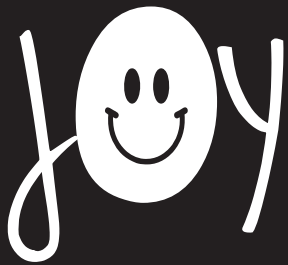
Do you know what an acrostic is? It is a poem or sentence in which the first letter of each line spells out a word. Create an acrostic for the word LOVE with words that express love or loving actions.

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# J O Y

*Philippians 4:4*

*Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again:  
Rejoice!*

Christmas is such a joyful time of year! There is special food, music and parties. People are giving and receiving gifts. There are many Christmas activities and events happening. People are laughing and smiling! What are the things that bring you joy at Christmas?

Our Scripture verse today invites us to rejoice in the Lord. Rejoice is a way of telling people to be joyful in the Lord. Lord is another name for Jesus. This seems to be important because it is written two times. It seems like it would not be hard to be joyful during such a wonderful time of year as Christmas when everyone is happy and celebrating. But the verse uses the word always. I wonder, does that mean we are to rejoice even when things are not good?

What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord always?

Why do you think we are told to rejoice in the Lord always?

What does it look like for you to rejoice in the Lord?

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Our theme this week is Joy. Because Jesus was born we can have joy and we can rejoice! Advent is a time that we can remember that our joy is found in Jesus and share that with other people.

How does Jesus bring joy to your life?

How can you share the joy of Jesus this Christmas?

## 🔍 DIGGING DEEPER...

Is joy and happiness the same thing? Explain your thoughts.

Read Philippians 4:12-13. The Apostle Paul wrote these words while he was in jail for teaching people about Jesus!

What do you think is the secret to being content?

Do you want to learn the secret? Explain your thoughts.

🙏 **PRAYER:** Spend a couple minutes praising God. Ask Him to help you learn to be joyful always. Ask Jesus to help you learn what it means to be joyful even when things are not good.

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